

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /124 W
----- 027630

R 101526 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3472

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT SF WA

SUBJ: PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE CONCLUDES ON NAMIBIAN
NOTE

REF : CAPE TOWN 329

1. FOREIGN MINISTER DR. HILGARD MULLER RETURNED TO
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY MAY 8 AFTER HIS BOUT WITH KIDNEY
STONE, ALLOWING FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE TO RESUME.
ENSUING TWO- DAY EXCHANGE HELD LITTLE INTEREST EXCEPT
FOR COMMENTS ON UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM' S REPORT
TO SECURITY COUNCIL ON NAMIBIA. EVEN THERE, TACIT
AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES
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NOT TO SAY ANYTHING THAT MIGHT CAUSE SYG- SAG DIALOGUE TO BE BROKEN OFF MADE FOR VERY TAME DEBATE.

2. COMMENTING ON WALDHEIM REPORT, OPPOSITION UNITED PARTY' S (UP) CHIEF SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JAPIE BASSON, SAID SAG HAD APPARENTLY AGREED TO PRINCIPLES CONCERNING FUTURE OF TERRITORY WHICH FUNDAMENTALLY AFFECTED INTERESTS OF ITS INHABITANTS, AS WELL AS INTERESTS OF SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF. THEREFORE, IT WAS INCUMBENT ON SAG TO RESIST TEMPTATION TO PLAY POLITICS WITH NAMIBIAN QUESTION AND TO SPELL OUT IN CLEAR TERMS IN WHICH DIRECTION IT WAS MOVING WITH RESPECT TO TERRITORY. HE SAID HE COULD APPRECIATE NEED FOR DISCRETION WHERE ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDERWAY, BUT THE WALDHEIM REPORT WAS NOW IN PUBLIC DOMAIN AND GOVERNMENT OWED FULL EXPLANATION TO PEOPLE. BASSON SAID THERE MUCH CONFUSION AND CONCERN AMONG PEOPLES OF NAMIBIA, INCLUDING WHITES AND COLOREDS WHO SEEMED TO BE ONLY PEOPLES WITHOUT SPECIFIC " HOMELANDS". IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED IF SAG STOPPED TALKING IN " ABSTRACT TERMS" ABOUT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND BEGAN TO CREATE " VISIBLE" OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF- DEVELOPMENT. HE ADDED THAT THE VARIOUS POPULATION GROUPS OF NAMIBIA SEEMED TO BE THINKING MORE AND MORE ALONG LINES OF A FEDERATION, SUCH AS HAD BEEN SUGGESTED BY UP.

3. PROGRESSIVE PARTY MP MRS. HELEN SUZMAN COMPLIMENTED SAG ON " PROGRESS" MADE SO FAR IN THE SYG- SAG DIALOGUE. SHE SAID SAG HAD GONE " FURTHER THAN IT HAD EVER DONE BEFORE" WITH RESPECT TO NAMIBIA. MULTI- RACIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL WAS A " SIGN OF PROGRESS", ALTHOUGH MRS. SUZMAN BELIEVED THAT IT HAD NOT GOTTEN OFF TO A VERY AUSPICIOUS START. GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO COME LONG WAY STATING IT WOULD TAKE NO FURTHER STEPS CONCERNING NAMIBIA WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY AND BY SAYING THAT FUTURE OF NAMIBIA WOULD BE DETERMINED BY INHABITANTS. HOWEVER, SHE THOUGHT SOUTH AFRICA' S ARGUMENT OVER THE TERRITORY WOULD BE GREATLY STRENGTHENED IF SAG LIFTED EMERGENCY REGULATIONS WHICH PERMITTED DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL.

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4. FOREIGN MINISTER MULLER REPLIED TO OPPOSITION SPEAKERS ON MAY 9. HE SAID GOVERNMENT HAD GONE OUT OF ITS WAY TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH WALDHEIM AND TO FIND A " SATISFACTORY AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION" TO NAMIBIA DEADLOCK. SINCE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO CONTINUE SYG- SAG DIALOGUE WAS IN THE BALANCE AT THIS TIME, MULLER SAID IT WOULD BE " UNWISE" FOR HIM TO DISCUSS WALDHEIM REPORT

IN ANY DETAIL. HOWEVER, HE FELT FREE TO REPEAT PRINCIPLES GOVERNING SAG'S ACTIONS IN NAMIBIA. HE SAID GOVERNMENT'S POLICY REMAINED THAT NAMIBIA SHOULD DECIDE ITS OWN FUTURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 1 (2) OF UN CHARTER. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, SAG WAS TRYING TO PROVIDE PEOPLES OF NAMIBIA WITH EXPERIENCE OF SELF- GOVERNMENT. WITHOUT SUCH EXPERIENCE, HE ASKED, WHAT PEOPLE WOULD BE IN POSITION TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL CHOICE? GRANT OF SELF- GOVERNMENT STATUS TO OWAMBO AND KAVANGO WAS SAG'S WAY OF PROVIDING SUCH EXPERIENCE. MULLER ALSO SAID THAT SAG INTENDED MAKE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SWA A " MEANINGFUL CONSULTATIVE INSTRUMENT". SAG " HOPED" ITS MEMBERS WOULD BE TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE DIFFERENT POPULATION GROUPS AND THAT AS COUNCIL BECAME MORE EXPERIENCED AND EFFECTIVE " IT SHOULD PROGRESSIVELY BECOME AN INSTRUMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION AMONG INHABITANTS OF THE TERRITORY AS A WHOLE."

5. COMMENT: WHILE THEY MAY HAVE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO NAMIBIAN PROBLEM, GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES ALL STRONGLY DESIRE CONTINUATION OF SYG- SAG DIALOGUE AND HAVE TACITLY AGREED TO AVOID CONTENTIOUS DEBATE ON SUBJECT FOR TIME BEING ONLY FACTOR WHICH COULD CAUSE AGREEMENT TO BREAK DOWN WOULD BE FURTHER REVELATIONS OF ARRESTS AND OTHER REPRESSIVE POLITICAL ACTIONS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN NAMIBIA (CAPE TOWN 361).
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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